


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: January 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “People First Respectful Language
Modernization Amendment Act of 2009”

REFERENCE: Bill Number 18-502, As Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend Titles 16, 21 and 47 of the D.C. Official Code by removing offensive, dated language referring to persons with disabilities and replacing it with updated, respectful language. For example, the proposed legislation would replace:

- “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability;”
- “persons with mental retardation” or “mentally retarded persons” with “persons with intellectual disability;”
- “handicapped” or “handicapped persons” with “persons with disabilities;”
- “the Mentally Ill” with “persons with mental illness;” and
- “wheelchair-bound residents” with “residents who use wheelchairs.”

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Replacing dated terminology in D.C. laws with more respectful language would not have any fiscal impact.